

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-16 were pending in the present patent application. By way of this reply, claims 17 and 18 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by these additions, as support for these additions may be found, for example, in Figure 3A, Figure 3B and Figure 3C. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1 and 16 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 16.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0036] in the specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,857,821 issued to Takeda (hereinafter “Takeda”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “a power supply operable to supply a predetermined DC voltage to the load; and electrical path operable to electrically connect said power supply and said load to each other; a current draw unit operable to

draw current from said electrical path; and a current control unit operable to control the current drawn by said current draw unit from said electrical path to decrease difference between said DC voltage and a voltage received by said load". Advantageously, in this configuration the power supply circuit supplies an approximately constant DC voltage to the load, and is not affected by the delay caused by the inductance component between the power supply and the current draw unit in a situation where the current received by the load changes.

Takeda teaches a reactive power compensation system used to prevent fluctuations in the power voltage supplied to a load (Figure 3). However, Takeda's teaching is in the *AC power* domain, and specifically pertains to minimizing *AC power voltage* fluctuations caused by variations in the *AC load current*, which is mainly the reactive power (abstract and column 1, lines 5-12). Therefore, Takeda teaches diminishing fluctuations in the *AC voltage* supplied to a load by means of delivering reactive power to the load. Takeda is silent regarding minimizing fluctuations in *DC voltage* as recited in amended independent claim 1. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Takeda. Claims 2, 3, 5-9, and 11-15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,059,889 issued to Heaton (hereinafter "Heaton"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended. Independent claim 16 has been amended in a similar fashion to independent claim 1. Heaton teaches a power supply

circuit capable of delivering a programmed voltage to a device under test (DUT). Heaton's power supply circuit acts as a voltage source providing a programmed current limit is not exceeded (column 2, lines 45-48). When the current limit is exceeded, the power supply circuit will sink or source the programmed current. The current control unit in Heaton activates the current draw device only when the current being drawn by the DUT exceeds a preprogrammed limit. Thus, the operation of the current control unit in Heaton is *independent* of the voltage being supplied to the DUT and contrary to what is recited in independent claims 1 and 16. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Heaton. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,677,364 issued to Williams (hereinafter "Williams"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth above. Claims 4 and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

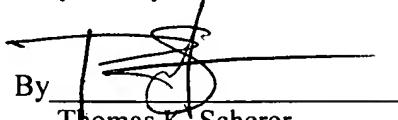
Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the

telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to
Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/133001).

Dated: March 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By _____


Thomas K. Scherer

Registration No.: 45,079

OSHA & MAY L.L.P.

1221 McKinney Street, Suite 2800

Houston, Texas 77010

(713) 228-8600

(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant

Attachments



Application No. (if known): 10/730,196

Attorney Docket No.: 02008/133001

Certificate of Express Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV562272104US in an envelope addressed to:

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on March 24, 2005
Date

Brenda C. McFadden

Signature

Brenda C. McFadden

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

Registration Number, if applicable

(713) 228-8600

Telephone Number

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.